

THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

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BRIG. GEN. W. P. RICHARDSON



Brig. Gen. Wilds P. Richardson, U. S. A., who has been appointed commander of the American expeditionary forces in northern Russia and has left London with a fair-sized detachment of engineers, sanitary workers and replacement officers for Archangel. All the members of the detachment volunteered from the American expeditionary force in France.

DRYS WIN MICHIGAN

Returns Indicate That Republican Ticket Has Been Successful.

Amendment to Constitution Permitting Sale and Manufacture of Beer and Wine Rejected.

Detroit, Mich., April 9.—Returns from the biennial election in Michigan indicate that the entire Republican ticket has been successful, an amendment to the constitution permitting the sale and manufacture of beer and wine has been rejected, and a bond issue of \$300,000 for construction of a hard road system was carried.

In Detroit chief interest centered on a proposal to purchase the street railway system. Available returns show the vote to be close, 65 precincts giving 6,793 for and 7,586 against.

Grant M. Hudson, superintendent of the Anti-Saloon league, in a statement claimed the drys would win the fight against the constitutional amendment permitting the sale and use of light wine and beer by a majority of approximately 150,000 votes.

"Scattering reports received at this time from different parts of the state indicate clearly that the dry majority will be double that of 1916, when we carried the state by 60,000," Mr. Hudson said.

"Some of the places we have heard from include the city of Grand Traverse, dry majority 1,400; Mecosta county, dry by 2,000; Marquette, 700; Ishpeming, 408; and Wexford county, 2,800. Reports from other parts of the state show the same gains."

Indications are that Detroit voted wet by 3 to 1. The vote in the rural districts was heavy for prohibition, 85 precincts registering 8,900 for the amendment and 20,115 against it.

The largest vote ever cast in Michigan was polled, and in many sections the women outvoted the men. This was the first time women have been privileged to vote, and they made the most of it.

Wayne county (Detroit) voted wet by a large majority, but it was conceded by supporters of the amendment that an unusually large margin in unreported precincts would be required to save it from defeat. The vote in Wayne was 47,954 for and 23,732 against in 262 out of 364 precincts. The proposed purchase by the city of Detroit of the local lines of the Detroit United railway at a cost of \$31,500,000 was rejected, according to almost complete unofficial returns. With but 16 precincts missing and 60 per cent of the vote required to carry the figures stood: 56,601 in favor of the plan and 64,175 against it.

Bomb Victim Leaves \$250,000.

Oakland, Cal., April 9.—Mrs. George D. Greenwood, wife of a San Francisco banker, who was killed in a bomb explosion at her home here March 18, left an estate valued at \$250,000, according to her will, which was filed for probate. Nine-tenths of the estate will be divided between a son and daughter. Responsibility for the death of Mrs. Greenwood has not been established.

President of Letts Takes Oath.

Copenhagen, April 9.—A dispatch from Kovno, dated April 1, which reached here, says: "The president of the Lettish republic took the oath before parliament. The members of parliament then took the oath to support the constitution."

SEVERE STORM SWEEPS TEXAS

FIFTY-ONE PERSONS WERE KILLED AND A LARGE NUMBER INJURED IN THE STORM.

A Missouri, Kansas and Texas Freight Train Was Blown From Track Near Dennison, Texas.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Dallas, Texas.—The worst equinoctial storm in many years swept over Northern Texas and Southern Oklahoma, leaving in its wake at least 100 deaths, hundreds of injured persons and property damage which will amount to millions of dollars, according to incomplete reports received here.

Dallas, Texas.—Fifty-one persons were killed and a large number were injured when a storm swept over part of Texas. Many buildings were destroyed and great damage was done. Fifteen persons were killed at Winnsboro, Texas, and 13 at Mineola. Many houses and buildings were unroofed in those towns. A Missouri, Kansas and Texas freight train was blown from the track near Dennison, Texas, and two trainmen were injured severely. Three persons lost their lives at Ector, Texas, when their houses collapsed. The storm which was central over Rio Grande Valley, moved northeastward with great severity during the night and was central over Oklahoma. Dispatches from Durant, Okla., state six persons were killed in that vicinity. Houses and barns were damaged. A report from Dennison, Texas, said one entire family, Mr. and Mrs. Grover Atmip and two sons, was swept into the water of a swollen creek and drowned.

The storm, according to dispatches, covered a clearly defined area, approximately one mile wide, and apparently followed a path in which there were no large cities.

Western Kansas is in the grip of one of the worst spring blizzards in years. Rain, snow and sleet are being driven by a high north wind. Miles of telephone and telegraph wires are down. Reports from New Mexico state train service is tied up. Rock Island Train No. 4, due in Topeka at 4:15 o'clock over the El Paso line, is reported stalled in a snowdrift at Nara Vista, N. M. Four to six inches of snow are reported between Dodge City and La Junta. The course of the storm was erratic. At times it leaped a mile or more, skipping one farmhouse unharmed, only to demolish the next one. Most of those killed were caught under their falling homes and buried. The heavy rainfall at once extinguished the numerous fires that started when houses were overturned.

Canaan was destroyed. Its cotton gin, church, school and cotton warehouse, containing much of last year's crop of the near-by farmers, and its 16 houses were swept to the ground. At Mineola the storm struck with extreme severity. Three white women and eight negroes were killed, and many others received such serious injuries that their deaths are expected. Much damage was done to the prospective fruit crops in many sections, according to reports. Rain made the Texas roads impassable, and the only means of reaching the stricken hamlets was by railroad. Shaw E. Ray, postmaster at Winnsboro, was authority for the statement of 15 deaths in that community.

The condition of the crop on April 1, last year, was 78.6 per cent of a normal, while in 1917 it was 63.4, and the average of the last ten years was 82.3.

There was an increase in condition from December 1, last year, to April 1, this year, of 1.2 points, compared with an average decline in the last ten years of 5.9 points between those dates.

The forecast of production of winter wheat this year is based on the assumption of average abandonment of acreage and average influences on the crop to harvest.

The average condition of rye on April 1 was 90.6 per cent of a normal, against 85.8 on April 1, last year, 86 in 1917, and 88.6, the average condition for the last ten years on April 1.

Council of Four Reach Agreement.

Paris.—The Council of Four reached an agreement on the Saar Valley. The agreement leaves sovereignty over the valley unchanged, but accords to France free of duty sufficient coal for the Lorraine iron industry and to replace the production of the mines destroyed in the Lens mining district, with the privilege to the Germans of restoring the Lens mines and thus relieving the Saar Valley of that charge.

EDITOR'S VICTIM IS WEAKER

Judge Divilbiss, of Richmond, Mo., Who Was Stabbed Following Political Row May Recover.

Richmond, Mo., April 9.—Judge Frank P. Divilbiss, stabbed nine times by Robert S. Lyon, a local editor, as the outgrowth of political enmity, was weaker, although physicians expressed hope for his recovery. One incision was found to have penetrated his abdominal cavity.

Break Up Union Meeting.

Lancaster, Tasmania, April 9.—Returned soldiers, objecting to sentiments expressed by a speaker, stopped a big union meeting here.

Prince Flies Over London.

London, April 9.—The prince of Wales made a flight in an airplane over London. The trip lasted an hour.



GREATEST WHEAT CROP FOR THE U.S.

Department of Agriculture Estimates Yield This Year at 837,000,000 Bushels.

IS VALUED AT \$1,891,620,000

Condition of Grain on April 1 Was 99.8 Per Cent of Normal—This Year's Crop Will Be 152,000,000 Bushels Larger Than the One Grown in 1914.

Washington, April 9.—The largest crop of winter wheat ever grown was forecast for this year by the department of agriculture, basing its estimate on conditions existing April 1. The enormous yield of 837,000,000 bushels was announced, which, at the government's guaranteed price of \$2.26 a bushel, places the crop's value at \$1,891,620,000.

The estimate on the condition of the crop April 1 was 99.8 per cent of normal. This year's winter wheat crop, if no unfavorable conditions develop between now and time of harvest, will be 152,000,000 bushels larger than the previous record crop, produced in 1914, and 248,000,000 bushels more than was grown last year.

Previous Record in 1914. Production of winter wheat last year was 558,449,000 bushels and in 1917 it was 412,001,000 bushels, while the record crop of 684,990,000 bushels was produced in 1914.

The condition of the crop on April 1, last year, was 78.6 per cent of a normal, while in 1917 it was 63.4, and the average of the last ten years was 82.3.

There was an increase in condition from December 1, last year, to April 1, this year, of 1.2 points, compared with an average decline in the last ten years of 5.9 points between those dates.

Rye Conditions High. The forecast of production of winter wheat this year is based on the assumption of average abandonment of acreage and average influences on the crop to harvest.

The average condition of rye on April 1 was 90.6 per cent of a normal, against 85.8 on April 1, last year, 86 in 1917, and 88.6, the average condition for the last ten years on April 1.

PACIFIC ADMIRAL COMES HOME

Caperton and Flagship Pittsburgh Join Victory Fleet in New York Harbor.

New York, April 9.—Admiral William B. Caperton, commander in chief of the Pacific fleet, arrived aboard the United States cruiser Pittsburgh, his flagship, which was flying a 500-foot homeward bound pennant. Salutes to the rear admiral were fired by the guardship Amphitrite as the Pittsburgh came into the harbor to join the vanguard of the victory fleet of American naval vessels assembling here for a two weeks' visit, April 15 to May 1.

85TH DIVISION MEN RETURN

Michigan and Wisconsin Doughboys Come Back Home on Two Battleships.

Newport, News, Va., April 9.—The battleships Virginia and Rhode Island, which sailed from Brest, March 20, docked and unloaded their 2,000 officers and men here. Most of the troops are units of the Eighty-fifth (Michigan and Wisconsin) division, with casual companies of Ohio, New York and Idaho contingents.

HOLD MANY DRAFT MEN AFTER PEACE

Some of Them to Be Kept in Service for the Full Period.

STAFF PLANS ARMY INCREASE

Secretary of War Baker Announces Selects' Discharge Depends on Speed in Getting Volunteers for the New Army.

Washington, April 9.—Large numbers of drafted men who have been looking forward to early demobilization are doomed to disappointment. Many are to be kept in service for the full period allowed by the law, which is four years after peace has been declared.

The War Department desires to keep these men in service until a satisfactory number of enlistments have been obtained under the general staff plan of increasing the regular army to 500,000 men.

Announced by Baker.

The decision to this effect is contained in a letter of Secretary Baker to Senator Reed of Missouri, made public here. It was written just before Secretary Baker left Washington for Europe.

Secretary Baker wrote that enlistments were coming in slowly adding: "As enlistments can be made only up to the authorized strength of the regular army and this strength is not sufficient to meet all the necessities existing for troops, it will be necessary to retain a large number of the selective men in the army until such time as the war department may be empowered by congress to raise by voluntary enlistments a sufficient number of men to perform the duties required."

In explaining the war department's delay in demobilizing the men, Secretary Baker, in another part of the letter, places the blame partly upon the British shipping interests, which have taken their ships away for use in trade and for the transportation of the British colonials. The letter says:

"Practically one-half of our troops sent abroad were carried in British ships, the use of which we cannot have at the present time, as they are being employed in returning British colonial troops to their homes and in readjusting the world's food stocks elsewhere."

Returned as Rapidly as Possible.

Secretary Baker said the troops are being returned to the United States as rapidly as possible, with due regard to the transportation facilities and the necessity of maintaining an armed force in Europe. He explained that it has been necessary to retain in the service a great many units of the demobilization force and of the motor transport corps to facilitate the movement of troops who are to be demobilized. Members of the medical corps have had to be retained, also, in order that the sick and wounded may properly be cared for. On this point Secretary Baker says:

"It is no more possible to discharge men who have been retained for the purpose of performing the necessary work connected with demobilization, demobilization, convalescent centers, hospitals, domestic guard duty, aviation fields, government stores, border police, garrisoning insular possessions, etc., than it would have been in the midst of the war to have moved men out of trenches where they were facing the enemy before other men were in their places to relieve them."

Secretary Baker adds that General Pershing has designated for return to the United States 221,000 for April, 248,000 for May and 270,000 for June, and that the execution of the schedule depends upon the available shipping.

PRESIDENT'S SHIP WILL SAIL FRIDAY

Departure Date of Liner George Washington Is Advanced Three Days.

NEW LEAGUE PACT COMPLETE

Covenant as Revised Contains Twenty-Seven Articles—British Official Says Peace Treaty Is Virtually Complete.

Paris, April 9.—Generally, as the day wore on a more hopeful tone prevailed in conference circles regarding the deadlock over the treaty. A member of the American delegation when asked regarding the situation said: "You know the George Washington has been ordered to Brest. That is a good subject for speculation." Among the subjects up for discussion in the council of four was that of a tribunal for trying the former kaiser, the former crown prince and others.

Washington, April 9.—In announcing that the presidential transport George Washington would sail from New York for Brest Friday instead of next Monday, the date originally fixed for her departure, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt disclosed that the change had been made as the result of a cablegram yesterday from Admiral Benson at Paris inquiring when the ship could sail.

(A New York message says the steamer will sail at 4:30 p. m. on April 11 and should arrive at the French port about April 17.)

League Pact Revised.

Paris, April 9.—The drafting committee of the league of nations has now completed its work.

The covenant as revised contains 27 articles. A full meeting of the league of nations committee will be held today to consider the redraft and the covenant. The progress made Monday by the reparations commission came only after keen discussion, in which Mr. House presented President Wilson's views. A draft report was finally adopted with several minor reservations, one of which covered the extent to which Belgium was bound by the definition of categories for damages. The reparations drafting committee will meet again today.

Treaty Is Virtually Completed.

"Peace making is practically completed," a high British official told a correspondent. "It will be a peace which both the bolsheviks and the reactionaries probably will regard as acceptable." The official added that complete agreement practically has been achieved in the matter of reparations, the Rhine territory and permanent disposition of Danzig.

Dutch Ignore Invitation.

The Dutch government apparently is ignoring the invitation of the peace conference to send a delegate to Paris to discuss Belgium's demand for a revision of the treaty of 1839, fixing the boundaries between Holland and Belgium. Holland was asked two weeks ago to send a representative to Paris, but has not yet replied.

The peace conference has decided that it would be improper to attempt any revision of the rights of Holland in relation to rectification of the frontier that Belgium seeks without formally hearing Dutch representatives.

Holland was represented here informally a fortnight ago, and her failure to come before the conference for a discussion of an actual revision of the treaty is causing much comment.

Wilson Speeds Action.

President Wilson's order that the transport George Washington proceed immediately to a French port have caused much comment and are construed by some as preliminary to a determined move to force an early agreement by the peace conference.

One report was current that the president had delivered an ultimatum to the effect that he would withdraw from the conference unless an agreement was reached within 48 hours.

Those close to the president say he did not contemplate any such action, but add that the president has made his position plain on the question at issue.

The summoning of the George Washington will place the president in such a position that he cannot be embarrassed by having to wait for the transport should the time come when he might wish to withdraw from the discussions.

Germans to Pay \$45,000,000,000.

The council on Monday heard the report of the reparations committee and accepted a proposition which provides for the formulation of the categories of damages which Germany will be required to pay and the method of estimating them, but will leave to a commission sitting after the peace treaty is signed the determination of the full bill and the amount which can be collected.



Mme. Teisanu, wife of Major Teisanu, military attaché of the Roumanian legation in Washington, was before her marriage last summer Miss Adele Humphreys, daughter of Samuel Humphreys, a prominent Philadelphian. They went abroad directly after their marriage and have just returned to Washington.

AMERICANS TO LEAVE

U. S. Wives of Hungarians Permitted to Quit Budapest.

Government Aids Foreigners to Get Out of Country—Minister of Justice Arrested.

Budapest, April 9.—While Gen. Jan Christian Smuts, who was sent here by the peace conference at Paris, has authority to arrange a new armistice between Hungary and the entente powers, it appears that he did not do so before his departure this morning.

British residents of the city will leave for Paris by way of Vienna next Saturday. With them will go the American wives of Hungarians who will be permitted to take with them their money and effects. The government seems to be doing everything possible in favor of Americans and other foreigners.

Great earnestness is displayed by the members of the new government in carrying out the work assigned to them. They are ready to discuss their plans and to solve problems, and they refrain from abusing capitalism. The maintenance of strict discipline to protect the bourgeoisie and to prevent red guard outbreaks has been decided upon by the government.

Jules Alpari, a prominent communist, and Jules Sevestre, people's commissioner in charge of socialization of factories, argue that communism is the only method by which central Europe can be saved from total ruin. Capitalism, they maintain, is unable to cope with the threat of bankruptcy, high wages and the unwillingness of laborers to work. They point out that under communism workmen cannot strike and are obliged to accept a reasonable wage.

Herr Landsberg, minister of justice in the national German government, was arrested at Magdeburg, the capital of Prussian Saxony, by members of regiments stationed there, a Magdeburg dispatch reports. General Kleist, in command of the Fourth army, and his staff also were arrested.

Demonstrations have occurred in Munich against the new revolutionary government of Bavaria, according to Berlin dispatches today. The demonstrators were dispersed by troops, the advices state.

Trains Derailed By Bandits.

Washington.—Advices to the State Department from Tampico, Mexico, said a passenger train was derailed by bandits 140 kilometers from Tampico, and that among the passengers injured was one American, J. P. Menet. The department wired Tampico for further particulars.